## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A method for preventing tipping of a flower pot formed of an open top container having a generally vertical wall formed with an upper edge portion and having a substantially closed bottom for resting the pot upon the ground in an area where the pot may be subjected to lateral forces, which can tip the pot, comprising:

providing a retainer of a thin, bendable, but relatively stiff wire rod, formed in the shape of a vertically-elongated, substantially straight, unbent, stem portion and with the stem portion having an upper end portion bent downwardly into a hairpin-like formation to form a downwardly opening, inverted U-shaped hook portion; with the hook portion having one leg formed by the stem portion, and having a short leg for extending downwardly adjacent the stem portion, with the leg portions being spread apart for holding the wall upper edge portion between them while the short leg may extend downwardly into the pot and into any potting material contained in the pot while the substantially straight, unbent, stem portion ~~long leg~~ extends downwardly ~~and outwardly~~ alongside of the pot and continuing for a distance relative to the pot for extending ~~to extend~~ into the ground;

resting the pot upon a ground surface;

engaging the hook portion over the upper edge portion of the pot and extending the rod downwardly from the hook portion closely adjacent to the outside

surface of the pot wall while the pot is resting upon the ground surface and pushing the stem portion downwardly alongside of the pot and continuing for a distance relative to the pot so that a lower portion of the stem portion enters into the ground a sufficient distance to hold the pot against tipping.

2. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, and said wire rod being formed of a relatively resilient wire material, and arranging the hook portion to receive and resiliently grab the upper edge portion of the pot wall between the legs of the hook portion.

3. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, and including providing a second retainer, similar in shape to said first mentioned retainer, and engaging the hook portion of the second retainer with the upper portion of the pot wall at a location spaced from the first mentioned retainer and then into the ground for temporarily holding the pot in a fixed position upon the ground at spaced-apart locations.

4. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, and wherein said pot has a downwardly tapered wall, and including arranging the stem closely adjacent to the side wall of the pot, at an angle corresponding to the angle of the pot wall.

5. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, and with said hook portion including pushing said short leg downwardly into potting material contained in the pot when engaging the hook portion over the upper edge portion of the pot while ~~pushing~~ the stem lower portion enters into the ground.

6. (currently amended) A retainer for preventing tipping of a flower pot, which is formed with a generally vertically arranged wall having an upper edge portion and a lower edge and a substantially closed bottom attached to the pot lower edge, for arranging the pot upon a ~~the~~ ground surface in a location where the pot may be subjected to laterally-directed forces, which tend to tip the pot, comprising:

an elongated rod formed of a substantially straight, unbent, relatively stiff wire[[-like]] material forming a stem portion ~~and being~~ of a length greater than the height of the pot for arranging the rod generally vertically adjacent the pot;

the stem portion ~~rod~~ having an upper end part ~~portion~~ reversely bent into a downwardly opening hook portion for grasping and holding an upper edge portion of the pot; and

the ~~rod having a lower~~ stem portion being of sufficient length for extending its lower part into the ground surface below ~~beneath~~ the ~~pot at the attachment of the pot wall and~~ bottom of the pot~~, and into the ground~~ a sufficient distance to ~~rigidly~~ hold the stem portion ~~rod~~ and the pot against tipping due to said laterally directed forces applied upon the pot.

7. (previously presented) A retainer for preventing tipping of a flower pot as defined in claim 6, and said rod material made of resilient material for resiliently grasping and holding said upper edge portion of the pot wall within the hook portion.

8. (original) A retainer for preventing tipping of a flower pot as defined in claim 6, wherein said pot is formed with an upper rim having an outwardly extending band encircling the upper rim, and said retainer stem having a lower straight portion and an upper end portion bent outwardly of the lower stem portion for fitting around, and receiving, the adjacent portion of the pot band.

9. (previously presented) A retainer as defined in claim 6, and said hook being vertically elongated, and said rod material being resilient for receiving and resiliently gripping an upper edge portion of the pot wall within the hook portion.

10. (currently amended) A retainer as defined in claim 9, ~~and said stem terminating in a lower end shaped to penetrate the ground;~~

and said hook portion having a free leg formed with a free end shaped to penetrate and extend into material contained in the pot when the hook portion receives the upper edge portion of the pot wall.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A retainer as defined in claim 6, and said hook portion being formed with a leg portion that extends downwardly and laterally toward the stem portion to provide a space for receiving said upper edge portion of a pot, and said wire[[-like]] material being sufficiently resilient so that said pot portion is resiliently gripped in the space.

13. (currently amended) A retainer as defined in claim 6, and said hook portion having a hook leg portion extending downwardly adjacent said stem portion for receiving the upper edge portion of the pot wall, and with the hook leg portion having a free lower end, and the stem portion having a free lower end for respectively penetrating the contents of the pot and the ground adjacent the outside of the pot wall when the hook portion holds the edge portion of the pot wall.

14. (cancelled)